

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NATO 05470 01 OF 02 161915Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EURE-00 /065 W
-----161927Z 097715 /44

P 161851Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4255

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 05470

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE FOR AUTUMN FORGE 77
EXERCISE SERIES

REF: (A) STATE 136933 (DTG 132346Z JUN 77), (B) NATO 5007
(DTG 091432Z JUN 77, NOTAL)

SUMMARY: POLADS AT JUNE 14 MEETING HELD BRIEF EXCHANGE ON
PROPOSED AUTUMN FORCE 77 PRESS RELEASE WHICH RESULTED IN
CHANGES REPORTED BELOW. AFTER CHECKING WITH SHAPE,
USCINCEUR AND NATO IMS, OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT REFORGER 77
IS A MILITARY MOVEMENT AND THUS NOT NOTIFIABLE AS A MAN-
EUVER. WE NOTE THAT, IN 1976, REFORGER WAS CONSIDERED A
MOVEMENT FOR CSCE/CBMS PURPOSES. WE BELIEVE, MOREOVER, THAT
PRESENT WORDING, DESCRIBING REFORGER 77 AS A "LAND/AIR"
EXERCISE, SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ "LAND/AIR/SEA EXERCISE"
SINCE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT WILL BE MOVED BY
SEA. ACTION REQUEST: DEADLINE FOR POLITICAL CLEARANCE OF
DRAFT PRESS RELEASE IS JUNE 27, AND WE WOULD APPRE-
CIATE GUIDANCE BY THAT DATE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 NATO 05470 01 OF 02 161915Z

1. AT JUNE 14 POLADS MEETING, FRG REP PROPOSED THAT PARA 2
OF DRAFT PRESS RELEASE BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
"ALL NATO NATIONS WITH MILITARY FORCES COMMITTED TO THE
DEFENSE OF ALLIED COUNTRIES ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THIS PROGRAM. IT LINKS TOGETHER, UNDER A COMMON
SCENARIO, A NUMBER OF NATIONAL, MULTINATIONAL,
AND NATO EXERCISES OF VARYING SIZE HELD THROUGHOUT EUROPE

EACH AUTUMN." SEVERAL REPS COMMENTED THAT FRG SUGGESTION WAS AN IMPROVEMENT BECAUSE IT WAS A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION, AND WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS LESS OF A PROPAGANDA TARGET BY AVOIDING MENTION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EXERCISES INVOLVED IN AUTUMN FORGE.

2. IN ADDITION, THE DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISE COLD FIRE IN PARA 5 OF DRAFT WAS AMENDED TO READ "A MULTINATIONAL AIR EXERCISE CONNECTED WITH SEVERAL LAND EXERCISES IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION". (SEE SEPTTEL)

3. AS A RESULT, PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE TEXT, POLADS (77)21 REVISED, NOW READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ON "AUTUMN FORGE 77 EXERCISE SERIES"

SHAPE - BELGIUM - AUTUMN FORGE, THE NICKNAME FOR THE SERIES OF MILITARY EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE (ACE) EACH YEAR WILL COMMENCE IN AUGUST.

ALL NATO NATIONS WITH MILITARY FORCES COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF ALLIED COUNTRIES ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM. IT LINKS TOGETHER, UNDER A COMMON SCENARIO, A NUMBER OF NATIONAL, MULTINATIONAL, AND NATO EXERCISES OF VARYING SIZE HELD THROUGHOUT EUROPE EACH AUTUMN.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NATO 05470 01 OF 02 161915Z

AUTUMN FORGE OBJECTIVES INCLUDE: TESTING AND REFINING THE CAPABILITY TO MOVE FORCES QUICKLY TO AREAS OF GREATEST NEED; EXPLORING WAYS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND SUPPLY SYSTEMS BETWEEN COMMANDS AND NATIONS; AND IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING AREAS FOR STANDARDIZATION IN DOCTRINE, PROCEDURES, EQUIPMENT AND ARMAMENT OF NATO FORCES.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE AN OUTGROWTH OF THE ACE-WIDE FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM INSTITUTED LAST AUGUST BY THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE (SACEUR), GENERAL ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR. THAT PROGRAM, AND THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE SERIES, IS CALLED "THE 3 R'S - READINESS, RATIONALIZATION AND REINFORCEMENT". GENERAL HAIG BELIEVES THAT BY CONCENTRATING ON "THE 3 R'S" DURING THIS YEAR'S SERIES OF EXERCISES, NATO FORCES WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN COMBAT READINESS. SOME OF THE MAJOR EXERCISES IN THIS YEAR'S SERIES ARE COLD FIRE, A MULTINATIONAL AIR EXERCISE CONNECTED WITH SEVERAL

LAND EXERCISES IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION; REFORGER 77, LAND/AIR EXERCISE IN WHICH US TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT EARMARKED FOR EUROPE ARE FLOWN TO GERMANY TO TRAIN WITH OTHER NATO FORCES; DISPLAY DETERMINATION, A SEA/LAND/AIR EXERCISE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA INVOLVING FORCES OF SOUTHERN REGION NATIONS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES; AND ARROW EXPRESS, AN ACE MOBILE FORCE EXERCISE IN THE NORTHERN REGION. THE SERIES CULMINATED IN LATE AUTUMN WITH ABLE ARCHER, AN ACE-WIDE COMMAND POST EXERCISE.

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PAGE 01 NATO 05470 02 OF 02 161916Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 05470

THE RESULTS OF ALL THE AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISES ARE EVALUATED BY ALL MILITARY COMMANDERS AND STAFFS CONCERNED TO DETERMINE THE IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY TO INSURE CONTINUED MILITARY READINESS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATO'S DETERRENT MISSION.

END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: RE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS REGARDING STATUS OF REFORGER 77 (REF A, PARA 3), WE HAVE CHECKED WITH SHAPE, USCINCEUR AND IMS AND HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT REFORGER IS A STRATEGIC MOBILITY EXERCISE, WHICH IN CSCE/CBMS TERMS WOULD BE A MOVEMENT SINCE REFORGER ITSELF WILL NOT INVOLVE GROUND MANEUVERS BY COMBAT FORCES. THUS, IN OUR VIEW, POLADS SHOULD NOT ADD REFORGER 77 TO THEIR SCHEDULE OF MANEUVERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NOTIFICATION. WE WERE FURTHER INFORMED THAT THE SCENARIO FOR REFORGER 77 IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT FOR REFORGER 76, WHICH WAS CON-

SIDERED A MILITARY MOVEMENT AND THUS NOT NOTIFIED
UNDER CBMS.

5. IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT
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PAGE 02 NATO 05470 02 OF 02 161916Z

FOR REFORGER 77 WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY SEA, WHEREAS TROOPS
WILL BE AIRLIFTED. THUS WE BELIEVE THAT THE DESCRIPTION OF
REFORGER 77 SHOULD BE AMENDED TO READ "LAND/AIR/SEA
EXERCISE IN WHICH US TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT EARMARKED FOR
EUROPE ARE TRANSPORTED TO GERMANY TO TRAIN WITH OTHER
NATO FORCES." WE RECALL THAT, IN THE PRESS RELEASE FOR
AUTUMN FORGE 76, REFORGER WAS REFERRED TO AS "EXERCISES",
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS CONSIDERED A "MOVEMENT" FOR CBMS PUR-
POSES. THUS, WE BELIEVE WE COULD CONTINUE TO DESCRIBE
REFORGER AS AN "EXERCISE". THIS MIGHT AVOID POSSIBLE
EXTENDED DISCUSSION HERE OF DEFINITIONS OF "EXERCISE" AND
"MOVEMENT".

7. ACTION REQUEST: WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON PROPOSED
AUTUMN FORGE 77 PRESS RELEASE BY JUNE 27. STREATOR

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